Ftur-laning of Cuttack Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5

573. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in four-laning of the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of the National Highway No. 5;

(b) the year by which the four-laning work would be completed;

(c) the progress made so far in that regard; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the flour-laning work?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been some delay in starting the work due to the process of selecting contractors and supervision consultants for different packages of the projent in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank under whose loan assistance the project is being executed.

(b) The project is targetted to be completed by July, 1998.

(c) and (d) Order for commencement of the works to selected contractors and for appointment of supervision consultants for different packages have been issued in December, 1994/January, 1995 and the works in all the packages have since started. An amount of Rs. 20.78 crores has been released for payment of mobilisation advance to the contractors and supervision consultants so as to expedite the work.

Declaration of National Waterways

574. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared some waterways as National Waterways;

(b) if so, what are those National Waterways; and

(c) the details of plans drawn up for ferry and passenger services in those National Waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The inland waterways so far declared by the Government of India as National Waterways are:—

(i) The Ganga Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Adlahabad to Haldia (1620 kms.).

(ii) The Brahamputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms.); and

(iii) West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 Kms.), alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms.) and Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms).

(c) Ferry and passenger services are State subject and hence no plan has been drawn up by the Government of India.

Development of Waterways

575. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that the Indian Waterways are not maintained properly;

(b) if so, tht reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have felt the need of maintaining and the developing the waterways to meet the growing transport requirement of the country;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in that regard; and

(e) the details of the action plan drawn up, if any?